



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **RM-4**

August 2, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe *DLW*
Director of Public Works

CONDITION OF COUNTY AND CITY BRIDGES

In response to the tragic bridge failure that occurred in Minnesota yesterday, we are providing this information for your use.

We collaborate closely and cooperatively with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to inspect and maintain the State, County, and city bridges. Caltrans is responsible for the State highway and freeway bridges. We are responsible for 300 County bridges, and we inspect 900 city bridges (excluding the City of Los Angeles) on behalf of Caltrans.

Our concrete and steel bridges are inspected biannually and are in good overall condition. Timber bridges are inspected annually. Licensed engineers and bridge inspectors are involved in a continual program of bridge inspection and repairs. Our inspectors and engineers receive Federally prescribed training to ensure all inspections are conducted to current national standards.

Through our inspection program, bridge repair and maintenance issues are identified and prioritized for resolution. Our skilled bridge maintenance crews repair County bridges and city bridges upon request. They perform specialized bridge maintenance work that is prioritized through our inspection efforts.

As a result of these scheduled inspections and prioritized attention to significant repair items, all of our bridges are structurally sound. Our bridge inventory does not include the type of steel-truss bridge that collapsed in Minnesota.

Each Supervisor
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Recent passage of Proposition 1B by the voters has accelerated our seismic bridge retrofit program. Proposition 1B now assures that counties and cities will have the funds needed to continue the seismic retrofit of bridge structures throughout the State.

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cc: Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lari Sheehan)
County Counsel (Fred Pfaeffle)
Executive Office